



El Cerrito Democratic Club

February 2025 Newsletter

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ECDC
PO Box 192
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editors:
William Ktsanes (Outgoing) and
Courtney Helion (Incoming)

1. El Cerrito Democratic Club General Information

Since 1952, the El Cerrito Democratic Club (ECDC)—one of the oldest Democratic clubs in the state—has provided a forum for area residents to discuss and take action on issues and campaigns of local, national, and international importance. Our General Membership Meetings are open to all and usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month except October and December, when we typically have our annual dinner and holiday party.

Our monthly General Membership Meetings are generally in a hybrid format accessible both in person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remotely via Zoom.

For monthly meeting and calendar reminders, you are invited to download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) invites to your computer:

https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/tZUpOCvqDkpEtH10GiVZ7NcegZqDI_tJeMI/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGpqjwjHdKXsxGCRpwcBo_CXe3wpnpej7d1zU_CChZpNS31M-V4I5ZWl8z6

For those of us who've been able to come to Hana Gardens, it's been wonderful to be in community and gather in person. Whether you join us in person or by Zoom, we encourage you to come a few minutes early to mix-and-mingle with fellow ECDC members.

The El Cerrito Democratic Club and its activities are supported by volunteers and the annual dues of members. Please see the "Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions" section towards the end of this newsletter for directions on how to join the ECDC or renew your membership. El Cerrito Democratic Club executive board officer elections occur annually each January.

Special thanks to our 2025 volunteer officers:

El Cerrito Democratic Club Officers (2025)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ● President – Neil Tsutsui | ● VP Programs – Ruthie Abelson Olivas |
| ● Past President – Champagne Brown | ● VP Publications – Courtney Helion |
| ● Executive Vice President – William Ktsanes | ● VP Records – Leslie Reckler |
| ● VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg | ● VP Treasurer – Ed Crowley |
| ● VP Membership – Greg Lyman | |

The specific duties of officer positions are described in section "VII. Officers" of the Bylaws posted on the ECDC website at <https://ecdclub.org/club-documents/>.

If you're interested in participating more actively in the ECDC, please consider volunteering with the Club and/or joining the Executive Board.

Help is always greatly appreciated!

- Courtney Helion, VP Publications; and William Ktsanes, Executive VP

2. Information and Zoom Link for the Tuesday, February 25th El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meeting

Our General Membership Meetings are generally in a hybrid format, accessible both in person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments (10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and via Zoom.

To join the monthly ECDC General Membership Meetings via Zoom, please use this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>

Zoom Meeting ID: 814 7976 2385; Zoom Passcode: c5fQKR

Dial In by Phone: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968;

Meeting ID: 814 7976 2385; Phone Passcode: 920761

Please note that the Passcode is different if you dial in by phone rather than join through Zoom.

February Meeting Agenda (Tentative)

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle, Zoom Logins

6:30 pm – Call to Order

6:31 pm – Review and Approve the February 2025 Meeting Agenda **(Action Item)**

6:33 pm – Review and Approve the January 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes **(Action Item)**

6:35 pm – Officer Reports:

Membership (Greg Lyman)

Media (Madeline Kronenberg)

Publications (Courtney Helion)

Treasury (Ed Crowley)

Records (Lesie Reckler)

Programs (Ruthie Abelson Olivas)

Records (Leslie Reckler)

6:40 pm – Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Report

6:45 pm – February Program: Selection of Program Topics for the El Cerrito Democratic Club's
2025 Monthly Membership Meetings **(Action Item)**

7:45 pm – Announcements (please limit to 2 minutes)

7:55 pm – Good of the Order

8:00 pm – Adjourn

- Neil Tsutsui, ECDC President

3. Minutes from the January 28th El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meeting

El Cerrito Democratic Club
General Membership Meeting Minutes
6:30 PM, Tuesday, January 28, 2025
(in person at Hana Gardens, 10860 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito; and via Zoom)

Call to Order

President Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Review and Approve the January 2025 Meeting Agenda

On the motion of Tsutsui and the second of Nye the agenda was approved unanimously.

Review and Approve the September and November 2024 Membership Meeting Minutes

On the motion of Akacic and the second of Tsutsui, the minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

6:35 pm – Officer Reports

Membership (Neil Tsutsui)

- 84 members. Please renew.

Media (Madeline Kronenberg)

- No report

Publications (William Ktsanes)

- No report

Treasury (Ed Crowley)

- Budget will be on the February 2025 agenda.

(Note: Discussion of ECDC's 2025 proposed budget is postponed until the March 2025 General Membership Meeting.)

Records (Lesie Reckler)

- No report

Programs (Ruthie Abelson Olivas)

- No report

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Reports

(Brown)

- Reorganization meeting results:
 - Katie Ricklefs, Chair
 - Tamela Hawley, 1st VP Endorsements, Elections, Rules
 - Joey Smith 2nd VP Development, Fundraising Training
 - Robyn Kuslits, Controller
 - Jamin Pursell, Secretary
 - Nye District 1 Director

(Nye)

- A-DEMS elections. Register by January 31, 2025 by noon. See this excerpt from the newsletter:

This is the February biennial election of Assembly District Delegates for the California Democratic Party. Assembly District Elections (“ADEM”) will be held to elect fourteen representative delegates to the California Democratic Party State Central Committee from each of California's eighty Assembly Districts. As a registered Democrat, you are qualified to vote, but you need to register [here for an online ballot](#) before January 31st.

Currently, we have three ECDC members running: Y’Anad Burrell, Alfred Twu, and me (Neil Tsutsui). Having our members as Assembly District representatives to the Democratic Party will ensure that the party's platform and endorsed candidates align with our vision of a safe, affordable, and thriving Bay Area. This is even more critical as Trump takes office and the nation looks to California as an example of Democratic governance and leadership.

Please support us by registering here for an online ballot before January 31st. After registering, you will receive an email confirmation and, in February, a physical letter with instructions on how to vote.

January Program: ECDC Officer Elections (Action Item)

The following members are nominated for the positions as indicated below:

On the motion of Sudduth and the second of Twu, the motion Passes unanimously.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ● President – Neil Tsutsui | ● VP Membership – Greg Lyman |
| ● Past President – Champagne Brown | ● VP Programs – Ruthie Abelson Olivas |
| ● Executive Vice President –
William Ktsanes | ● VP Publications – Courtney Helion |
| ● VP Media – Madeline Kronenberg | ● VP Records – Leslie Reckler |
| | ● VP Treasurer – Ed Crowley |

Discussion of 2025 Programs

There will be a vote in February to adopt the chosen topics.

Suggestions:

- Trump's actions affecting El Cerrito and the Bay Area
 - Break down into subparts or categories
 - Grant programs, climate, etc.
- New ballot measure/funding measure for the library
- El Cerrito "Complete Streets" and traffic calming plan
- El Cerrito sustainable transportation plan
- Protecting immigrants/"Know your Rights" seminars
- Election landscape for the midyear (2026). Flipping Republican House seats.
- Candidate selection and working on campaigns.
- Environmental issues/disasters
- Local electeds
 - John Gioia - Veteran's Building for seniors and more.
 - Jesse Arreguin - Senate District 7.
 - Engagement
 - Recruitment -- Younger members
 - "Three Police Chiefs" Meeting/Public Safety
 - Fire Safety
 - Understanding the Democratic Party Structure

Announcements (please limit to 2 minutes)

- Three people running for A- Dem Currently, we have three ECDC members running:
- Y'Anad Burrell, Alfred Twu, and Neil Tsutsui. See above.
- Cheryl Sudduth looking for science kit support for East Coco County STEM event for girls.
Please reach out, [Applications](#) for El Cerrito boards and commissions due January 31, 2025.

Good of the Order

Adjourn

President Tsutsui adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

- Leslie Reckler, VP Records

4. February Program: Selection of Program Topics for the El Cerrito Democratic Club's 2025 Monthly Membership Meetings

At last month's ECDC Monthly General Membership Meeting (see "Minutes" above), participants put forth ideas for potential program topics for 2025's monthly meetings. This month (February), members will be asked to select up to eight (8) topics for discussion in 2025. With **ECDC's 73rd Annual Dinner** in October and the **ECDC Annual Holiday Party** in December, there are eight remaining monthly programs to be decided upon. Below are the suggestions put forth in last month's General Membership Meeting as potential program topics for March, April, May, June, July, August, September and November:

CHOOSE UP TO EIGHT (8)

1. *How Will Trump Affect Us? (Federal Funding; Immigration, Deportation and Sanctuary Status; Public Education; Organized Resistance)*

This is obviously a very broad topic. One concern is federal funding, both direct and indirect. Another is protection for immigrants living in our city and whether our sanctuary city ordinance will be effective. A third is the effect on public schools, including special education and funding for Title I schools and attacks on teachers' unions and their contracts. There is also the issue of morale if people feel helpless. How could our club organize effective resistance? How could we help raise morale? One idea is to arrange a screening of a documentary such as *You've Been Trumped* at the Cerrito Rialto theater.

2. *The Plan for a El Cerrito Plaza BART Station Library: What are the Latest Updates?*

A new library within the El Cerrito Plaza transit-oriented development has been discussed since at least 2019. In November 2023 a proposed ballot measure to fund the library was considered but not placed on the ballot after city polling showed it would not pass. Two weeks later, the council voted to make construction of a Plaza Station library part of the city's strategic plan. Council members stated they hoped to win voter approval of a library tax measure in 2025. What is the current plan for library design, parking, and funding?

3. *What's the Future of Streets in El Cerrito? (Specific to El Cerrito)*

Recently a plan to redesign Richmond Street sparked controversy when some residents opposed the design while others contended that bike lanes make streets safer for everyone and support the city's climate goals. Pointing to citywide policies adopted in the past that favor "reducing the area of public streets dedicated to vehicle traffic and parking" and "increasing the area dedicated to other modes," there's been resistance to bringing the Richmond Street plan before the city council. What are the different perspectives, costs, and benefits of the Richmond Street plan? (For more background information, see "5. Guest Article: Richmond Street Redesign" in this newsletter.)

4. *Traffic Calming in the Bay Area (More Broadly for the Region)*

What are the best practices for traffic calming? What are the choices and how are they being used around the Bay Area? Recently frustrations of drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians with traffic calming measures have been in the news. Are there traffic calming methods that work well and get a favorable response from people using different modes? The University of California Institute of Transportation Studies might be able to address this. El Cerrito's Jarrett Mullen might also be available to speak.

5. *Protecting Immigrants / "Know your Rights" Seminar*

An immigration expert could be invited to discuss President Trump's effort to deport undocumented immigrants, El Cerrito's sanctuary city status, and best practices to ensure human rights are protected.

6. *The Hillside Natural Area Plan*

The question of how to balance fire safety and nature is the core issue for the Hillside Natural Area, which is surrounded by privately owned land in El Cerrito. For fire safety, the plan calls for maintaining a fuel break for the first 100 feet from the property line. Removing eucalyptus and flammable non-native plants is also part of the plan. Care must be taken when mowing so healthy natives that look dead aren't removed leaving bare soil that can slide. At the same time, the area provides habitat to the dusky footed woodrat. How can care of the area be managed and funded?

7. *The Veterans Building and Potential Partnerships between El Cerrito and Contra Costa County*

Since 1932, the county-owned El Cerrito Veterans Memorial has been used for meetings by various groups, weddings and other events. However, the American Legion post responsible for managing the building can no longer do so. The three-story, eight-room structure has great potential. Contra Costa County District 1 Supervisor John Gioia is leading an effort to fund deferred maintenance and develop a community-led plan for reinvigorating this valuable asset. Several stakeholder groups are in discussion with Gioia and county staff to help develop a path forward, among them the American Legion, El Cerrito Historical Society and an ad hoc committee advocating for the return of a dedicated senior center in El Cerrito.

8. *Democratic Party Structure*

A local elected official such as District 7 Senator Jesse Arreguin or a representative from the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County could be invited to explain and discuss the structure of the local, county and state branches of the Democratic Party.

9. *Election Landscape for the Midyear (2026 and Beyond)*

With Republicans in control of all branches of government, the path back to power for Democrats looks difficult. In upcoming special elections and the 2026 midterms, we will have opportunities to take back the House of Representatives, and small groups of individuals (like the ECDC) can have a meaningful impact on individual races. We could have a presentation that previews the 2026 electoral landscape, including a look at Republican-held House seats in California, and discuss whether some of these look like vulnerable targets for us to flip from red to Blue.

As we know too well, the Republicans have their Project 2025, a 900-page document detailing what they aim to accomplish with President Trump. We could also invite a Democratic Party official/leader to discuss efforts to counterbalance Project 2025 by securing strong candidates for elected office, enlist grassroots volunteers, and flip California House seats held by Republicans. Important questions are the following: (1) what platform and message are Democrats developing to offer a positive vision of how they would handle issues like the economy, tariffs, taxation, education, immigration, civil rights, global allegiances and participation, health, energy, and climate change? (2) Do Democrats have any think tanks on a par with the Heritage Foundation? (3) Can the full range of Democrats unify to support positions that will inspire voters?

10. *Recruitment and Greater Engagement*

One of the goals for the upcoming year should include recruitment and engagement with a focus on a younger and more diverse membership. During the last campaign misinformation, frustration, and apathy seemed to keep many voters at home. Many feel that their voices do not matter, that the goals of the Democratic Party at large do not reflect their concerns or societal shifts. Encouraging engagement and action while holding space and addressing these concerns can be a daunting but meaningful path towards positive lasting change.

11. *Fire Safety*

We could invite a guest speaker from Fire Safe El Cerrito and El Cerrito Fire Chief Saylor for a discussion of local fire safety issues and best practices.

12. *“Three Chiefs” Meeting on Public Safety*

We could invite several police chiefs to meet with the El Cerrito Democratic Club for a roundtable discussion of local public safety issues. One possibility would be to invite Police Chief Paul Keith from El Cerrito, Police Chief Bisa French from Richmond and Police Chief John Geissberger from Albany (hence “three chiefs”).

Please come to the Tuesday, February 25th ECDC General Membership Meeting prepared to vote on up to eight (8) preferred program topics for our monthly membership meetings in 2025. Thank you!

- Potential discussion topics compiled and presented by Betsy Bashor, ECDC Member; Jon Bashor, ECDC Member; Courtney Helion, VP Publications; and William Ktsanes, Executive VP

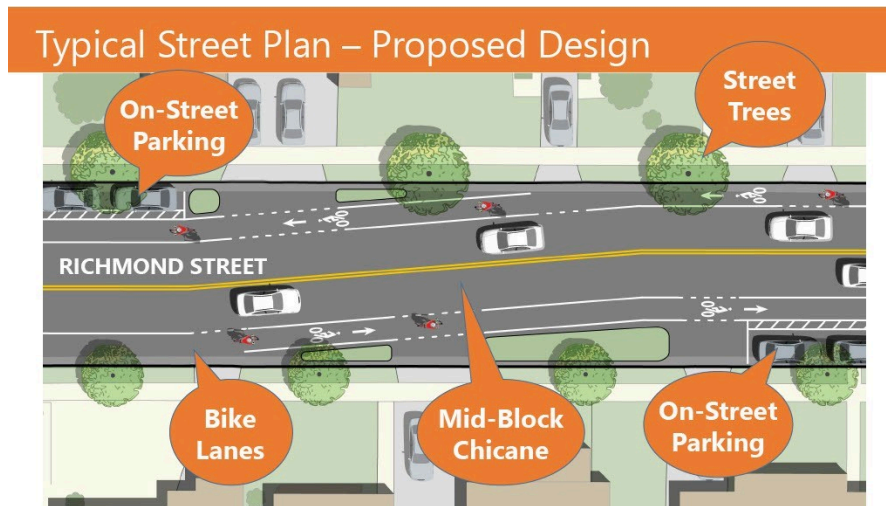
5. Guest Article: Richmond Street Redesign (Betsy Bashor)

Despite broad support for making Richmond Street safer, many residents—particularly those who live on Richmond Street—are unhappy with the design proposed by the City of El Cerrito. Residents who oppose the plan said they expressed their dismay at a community meeting on December 7th. Many are calling for greater engagement and dialogue with city officials as design options are considered.

Removing Parking and Adding Curving Bike Lanes

The most controversial part of the proposal would remove about half the parking on the eight blocks of Richmond Street north of Moeser Lane and add a dedicated, chicane (curving) bike lane that would curve along next to the curb and around a limited number of parking spaces. Clusters of parking would alternate from one side of the street to the other.

This would be a big change from the current bicycle designation for Richmond Street which is a “sharrow” – a white-painted bicycle image which indicates that cars and bikes need to share the road.



Left: proposed redesign image by CSW. Above: a sharrow that has been the marking on Richmond.

Jessie Maran, project manager for consultant CSW/Stuber Stroeh Engineering Group, said on January 13th that the project team is moving forward with the 35% design phase, and no further public meetings are planned at this time.

Concerned residents have formed a group, the Richmond Street Neighbors Association.

On January 21st, the Richmond Street Neighbors Association submitted a petition signed by about 140 residents asking the city to stop design work and address their concerns. This newly-formed residents' group reports that 90% of the residents they contacted along the eight-block stretch of Richmond Street oppose the City's plans to remove half of their street parking.

Project Purpose

Improve **pedestrian and bicycle safety**
to establish a complete Richmond Street
between Elm Street and Fairmount Avenue.



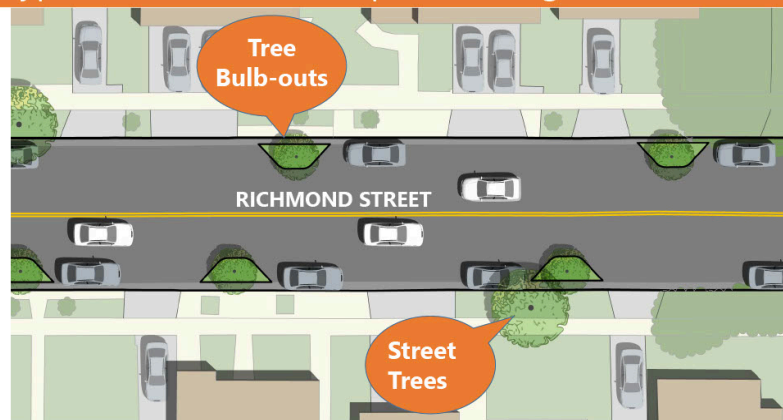
The image above from CSW shows the alignments of Richmond Street and the Ohlone Greenway.

There seems to be broad agreement that riding a bike on Richmond Street is challenging. At the same time, there is strong disagreement about whether the chicane bike lane design is necessary and appropriate.

Bike lanes are only planned for the eight blocks from Moeser Lane to Hill Street. No bike lanes are currently planned for Richmond between Fairmount Avenue and Moeser.

As proposed, “tree bulb-outs” as depicted in the image to the right would eliminate some parking for the full length of Richmond Street. South of Moeser, between Fairmount and Moeser, the bulb-outs would look something like this “Typical Street Plan” image.

Typical Street Plan – Proposed Design



At a January 11 meeting of residents, Inge Brust said Richmond Street is important as an evacuation route and the proposed curving lanes and bump outs turn the street into an “obstacle course. Brust said she is Dutch and with years of experience as a cyclist, but the proposed design will make the street more dangerous, not less. She notes that by removing all parking on one side of the street and

switching off the parkable side every other block, people would have to cross the street much more often. This could make the street less safe, particularly for elderly and disabled residents, and children.

Ben Chuaqui, an architect who lives on Richmond Street, said he would like to see a design that works better for all users. Chiaqui said Richmond Street isn't wide enough for conventional bike lanes and parking on both sides. "So they came up with this chicane idea, and switching the parking back and forth every block. You don't see many places that have this design."

What about the Ohlone Greenway?

At least a dozen residents said the Ohlone Greenway is nearby and can be easily reached via side streets for bicyclists traveling north or south.

Kina, a bicyclist who lives on Richmond Street, thinks the sharrow designation is safer for the busy street than the type of bike lane being planned. She said not a lot of cyclists use Richmond Street, and those who do "know how to handle traffic." For families and children, Kina said the Ohlone Greenway is the safe route.

Advocating for the Design

At the Dec. 17, 2024, City Council meeting, six speakers supported the planned chicane bike lanes.

Rihanna, a Richmond Street resident who gave only her first name, said she wholeheartedly supports the design. "We need slower speeds," she said. "I applaud the design that is in the works...I applaud the chicane structure to slow the traffic throughout the street so cars just literally cannot drive the speed that they are driving now."

Janet Byron, co-founder of El Cerrito-Richmond Annex Walk and Roll, said the proposed design is in keeping with "complete streets" planning that El Cerrito has undertaken for more than a decade.

Said Steve Price, also a co-founder of Walk and Roll, "I definitely support separated bike lanes whatever the implementation."

Parking Data

A parking inventory was done in October 2024 to determine how many spaces exist and how many were being used. Parked cars were then counted at three different times on two different days. As a result, the project team concluded that less than half the on-street parking is used. Therefore, they concluded, all the parking spaces are not needed.

Several residents said the inventory didn't accurately capture parking occupancy.

Is Grant Money Driving the Design?

Larry Amernick is one resident who believes the project design is far beyond what is necessary. He and his wife, Ruth, were looking forward to a canopy of street trees and instead learned on December 7th that parking would be removed from their street to make room for a curving bike lane.

"This is not what we want," Amernick said. "This is all being driven by a federal grant." He compared the bike lane to the one on the Richmond-San Rafael bridge that has recently been studied to see if the number of cyclists justifies taking a lane from traffic.

(The Richmond Street Complete website says the total budget for the project is \$11 million, with 93% coming from outside grants. These include an \$8 million Safe Streets for All grant from the federal government. The city will pay \$700,000 using funds from the Measure A Street Maintenance Fund. The rest will be covered with funds from county, regional, and state agencies.)

Amernick said the loss of parking will be a hardship for people with mobility problems and will make activities of daily life like grocery shopping or going to the doctor more difficult.

Lynn, a resident who did not want her last name used, said that she was frustrated when she attended a November workshop because it consisted of a presentation and stations around the room one could visit. It didn't seem that alternatives were presented or that residents could be heard.

"We're invited to these meetings but I don't think they're set up in a way that there's any dialog," Lynn said. "I don't know what the motivation is for this project. If it is for safety I think there are multiple other ways to achieve safety without doing this."

Maran, the project manager for CSW, said the project design reflects input gathered from participants through surveys dating back to El Cerrito's 4th of July celebration.

Other Traffic Calming

Maran said other traffic calming strategies will also be used. These include corner bulb-outs, raised intersections and crosswalks, flashing beacons, night-time lighting, and street trees. Not included in the design so far are additional four-way stops or speed bumps. As design progresses, the plan for specific intersections may differ, she said.

Kathy, a Richmond Street resident who did not want her last name used, said she had not had time to study the specific design, but traffic calming is needed. "I am not for or against this design," Kathy said. "This is not easy to solve. If a lot of people are upset maybe they need to slow this down. Maybe there are some other scenarios that could work. It would be nice to have Plan A, B, and C."

- Betsy Bashor, ECDC Member

Editor's Note:

Over the years, I've encouraged ECDC members to provide articles and announcements for publication in the ECDC Newsletter. Betsy Bashor is an ECDC member, retired journalist, editor, and elementary school teacher who has lived in El Cerrito since 1989. In January, she launched the Livable El Cerrito website www.livableelcerrito.org to provide "an independent perspective on local issues that affect our lives." She's found that many people want to know more about local issues and government actions, but have busy lives that prevent them from gathering information and attending events. Betsy's www.livableelcerrito.org website has the potential to provide important information on local issues, stimulate healthy discussion and debate, and fill a gap left by the growing absence of local news in the mainstream press.

This "Richmond Street Redesign" article is an abbreviated version of one that is posted in full on the www.livableelcerrito.org. You may subscribe to the Livable El Cerrito newsletter at <https://www.livableelcerrito.org/subscribe> and email Betsy at LivableElCerrito@gmail.com.

- William Ktsanes, Executive VP

6. Future Events – *Mark Your Calendar!*

El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meetings and Events

ECDC February General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, February 25, 2025;
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>
Monthly Program: Scheduling for 2025

ECDC March Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, March 25, 2025;
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>
Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD

ECDC April Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, April 22, 2025;
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>
Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD

ECDC May Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, May 27, 2025;
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>
Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD

ECDC June General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, June 24, 2025;
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>
Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD

ECDC July General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, July 22, 2025;
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>
Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD

ECDC August General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, August 26, 2025;
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>
Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD

ECDC September General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 23, 2025;
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>
Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD

ECDC Annual October Dinner – 73rd Annual Dinner; time, date and location TBD;
no General Membership Meeting in October; guest speaker and topic TBD

ECDC November 2025 General Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 25, 2025;
(4th Tuesday of the month); hybrid format, in-person at Hana Gardens Senior Apartments
(10860 San Pablo Avenue, next to El Cerrito City Hall) and remote via Zoom link
<http://tinyurl.com/ECDCMonthlyMembershipMeeting>
Preliminary Monthly Program: TBD

ECDC Annual Holiday Party – time, date and location TBD; no General Membership Meeting in December

* *There are no El Cerrito Democratic Club General Membership Meetings in October or December; ECDC's Annual Dinner is in October and its Holiday Party is in December.*

ECDC Executive Board Calendar – The El Cerrito Democratic Club’s Executive Board (E-Board) meets monthly via Zoom for about an hour to handle routine club business, plan programs for the monthly General Membership Meetings and discuss newsletter content. As with the General Membership Meetings, the E-Board meetings are open to the public. The Zoom Link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89264608412?pwd=c2sySEl5ZEplL1lHVUM5bERCZGpEQT09>.

Below is the ECDC E-Board Calendar through June 2025:

2025 El Cerrito Democratic Club Executive-Board Calendar (E-Board)					
Monthly ECDC Executive Board Meeting (E-Board)	Deadline for Submitting the General Membership Meeting Agenda and Articles for the ECDC Newsletter	Monthly Newsletter Completed	Monthly ECDC Newsletter Postal Mailed (to those who have paid extra for USPS delivery)	Monthly ECDC Newsletter Emailed (by 6:00 pm)	General Membership Meeting Date
Thursday, 2/6/2025	Saturday, 2/15/2025	Tuesday, 2/18/2025	Wednesday, 2/19/2025	Saturday, 2/22/2025	Tuesday, 2/25/2025
Thursday, 3/6/2025	Saturday, 3/15/2025	Tuesday, 3/18/2025	Wednesday, 3/19/2025	Saturday, 3/22/2025	Tuesday, 3/25/2025
Thursday, 4/3/2025	Sunday, <u>4/13/2025</u>	Tuesday, 4/15/2025	Wednesday, 4/16/2025	Saturday, 4/19/2025	Tuesday, 4/22/2025
Thursday, 5/1/2025	Thursday, 5/15/2025	Tuesday, 5/20/2025	Wednesday, 5/21/2025	Saturday, 5/24/2025	Tuesday, 5/27/2025
Thursday, 6/5/2025	Sunday, 6/15/2025	Tuesday, 6/17/2025	Wednesday, 6/18/2025	Saturday, 6/21/2025	Tuesday, 6/24/2025

Other Community Events

El Cerrito City Council Meetings – 6:00-9:00 pm, first and third Tuesday of most months; hybrid format; in the City Council Chambers at City Hall (10890 San Pablo Avenue) and via Zoom; agendas and recordings available; <https://www.el-cerrito.org/113/City-Council>

El Cerrito Farmers Market – 9:00 am-1:00 pm, every Tuesday and Saturday; El Cerrito Plaza, 9000 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530; southwest corner parking lot between Trader Joe's and Wells Fargo Bank; www.contracosta.ca.gov/7549/Contra-Costa-Certified-Farmers-Markets



Library Commissioner Office Hours – Various dates and times (below) at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave, El Cerrito. Are you curious about the workings of the El Cerrito Library, or do you have suggestions on how it can better serve the community? El Cerrito Library Commissioner Michael Fisher and Alternate Commissioner Bethany Woods are eager to listen and engage in informal discussions with you during their new Office Hours (drop-in; no appointment required. These sessions are a perfect opportunity to voice your thoughts, ask questions, and become more involved in your local library community!

- Saturday, March 1st: 1-3 pm
- Tuesday, March 11th: 10 am-12 noon
- Thursday, March 27th: 6-8 pm
- Saturday, April 5th: 1- 3 pm
- Tuesday, April 8th: 6-8 pm
- Thursday, April 24th: 10 am-12 noon

If you know of other community events that may be of interest to our members, please submit them to Courtney Helion at ecdc.pubs@gmail.com for publication in future newsletters!

- William Ktsanes, Executive VP

7. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

REMINDER! – ECDC annual memberships expire annually on **September 30th**. If you have not yet done so, please renew for 2025. **Now is the time!**

You can do so online at: <https://ecdclub.org/join/>

Or by mailing a check to: ECDC Membership
PO Box 192
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Dues are \$5 for students, \$20 for individual members, and \$30 for two adults at the same address. The newsletter comes with membership and is delivered electronically by email. The added cost for a printed, hard-copy, postal mailed newsletter is \$18 (in addition to dues). Please make checks payable to “El Cerrito Democratic Club” and provide an email address for all individual members.

If you have membership questions, please email Greg Lyman at membership.ecdc@gmail.com.

Thank you!

- Greg Lyman, VP Membership

8. Call for Newsletter Submissions

The El Cerrito Democratic Club Newsletter is published eleven months a year (each month with the exception of a combined December-January issue) in advance of the General Membership meetings. ECDC members, friends and supporters are invited to submit articles and announcements regarding local issues and events of interest. Submissions should be emailed to ecdc.pubs@gmail.com for review and editing.

- Courtney Helion, VP Publications

9. Link to the ECDC Website and Bylaws

Periodically the Club updates our Bylaws. The bylaws were changed in October 2018 to meet DPCCC requirements; revisions were proposed and adopted during the January 2021, August 2022 and March 2023 ECDC meetings. The ECDC Bylaws are posted on the ECDC website at <https://ecdclub.org/club-documents/>.